GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2863
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
ALTERNATIVE ACCESS ROUTE TO BHUTAN
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been frequent blockades of NH-31A which is the only access route to Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Sikkim to allow them an alternative access route to Bhutan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) & (b) Plying of traffic on NH-31 A is blocked intermittently due to natural calamities, such as sliding and sinking of formation and landslides as also due to political bandhs organized by the sympathisers of Gorkha land;

(c) to (e) Government has approved 'in principle' a proposal to develop an alternate highway from Chalsa to Gangtok.There is, however no proposal of any alternate access route from Sikkim to Bhutan.